IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In application of: Johnson et al.))
Application No.: 10/624,066) Examiner: Not yet assigned
Filed: July 21, 2003) Art Unit: 3732
TISSUE DISTRACTION DEVICE) July 16, 2004

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendment to the claims be entered. No Office Action has been received in this case. This Preliminary Amendment adds fourteen (14) new claims, with two (2) new independent claims. The Commissioner is requested to charge the fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(b),(c) in the amount of \$212.00 (two hundred and twelve dollars) to Deposit Account 13-0014. This fee includes the fee of \$86.00 (2 x \$43.00) for the two additional independent claims and the fee of \$126.00 (14 x \$9.00) for the fourteen additional claims. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or deduct any additional amounts from Deposit Account 13-0014.

> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450 on July 16, 2004.

Michael D. Beck

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